

10/045,464

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 10, further comprising:

a processing unit for reading and writing information pertaining to the sensor module from and to the record memory.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim ~~10~~ 10 wherein:

each sensor module is provided with a fluid tight seal at least one end of the sensor fluid passage to form a fluid tight seal with one of the fluid passage of another sensor module and the fluid passage of the analysis mechanism chassis.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 4 wherein the modular sensor chamber of the diagnostic analyzer further includes:

an engagement element for selectively exerting pressure along one or more sensor modules in the sensor chamber to force the fluid seals of the one or more sensor modules into contact and into contact with the fluid passage of the analysis mechanism chassis so that the fluid passages of the one or more sensor modules form a single gas and liquid tight passage through the sensor chamber.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, wherein:

the record memory stores information pertaining to the sensor module includes use life information, the use life information include one of more of (a) a maximum number of test uses of the sensor module, (b) a maximum test use life of the sensor module, (c) a current accumulated number of test uses of the sensor module, and (d) a current accumulated test use period of the sensor module.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, wherein:

4/22/04 1:21 PM

- 2 -

10/045,464

the record memory stores information relevant to the sensor module includes one or more of (a) an identifier of the sensor module, (b) a lot number of the sensor module, (c) an identifier of the types of [thick] film sensors contained in the sensor module, and (d) calibration information pertaining to the [thick] film sensor contained in the sensor module, and (e) information tracking calibration of the film sensor during use of the film sensor.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim {{2}} 10, wherein:

first certain of the information relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is stored in the record memory before use of the sensor module, and  
second certain of the information relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is generated and stored in the record memory during use of the sensor module.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples, comprising:

in the diagnostic analyzer,

a modular sensor chamber for receiving at least one removable sensor module, and

a fluid passage for conducting fluids to the sensor chamber, and

a fluid entry module rotatably enclosing the fluid passage for conducting fluids to the modular sensor chamber and having an entry port for the entry of fluids to the modular sensor chamber through the fluid passage and a wiping seal mounted in the fluid entry module and slidably enclosing an aspiration tube in a region extending from the fluid entry port, wherein

the fluid entry module is rotatably and slidably engaged with the fluid passage analysis to rotate to a plurality of fluid entry positions, whereby

a sliding motion of the wiping seal with respect to the entry port due to rotation of the fluid entry module between fluid entry positions removes a residue of aspirated fluids from exterior surfaces of the entry port, and

in each removable sensor module{{:}}

a sensor chamber containing at least one film sensor,

10/045,464

a sensor fluid passage for leading fluids from the fluid passage and through the sensor chamber~~[[, and]]~~

a record memory for storing information relevant to the at least one film sensor;

11 (CANCELED)

12. (NEW) A sensor module for performing analysis tests on fluid samples, comprising:

a sensor module body having a single, unitary fluid passage extending between an input passage and an output passage of the module body and forming a flow path for conducting fluids through the sensor module,

a plurality of film sensors located on a single substrate in the fluid passage performing measurements of a fluid sample flowing through the sensor chamber, and one or more reference electrodes, wherein the film sensors and the reference electrode are located directly in the fluid flow, and a record memory attached to the sensor module body.

13. (NEW) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, wherein:

the one or more reference electrodes are located on the single substrate.

14. (NEW) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, wherein:

the one or more references electrode are located in a reference module.

15. (NEW) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, further comprising:

a processing unit for reading and writing information pertaining to the sensor module from and to the record memory.

16. (NEW) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples of claim 12, wherein:

first certain of the information relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is stored in the record memory before use of the sensor module, and

second certain of the information relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is generated and stored in the record memory during use of the sensor module.

4/22/04 1:31 PM

- 4 -